

Appln No. 09/882,154

Amdt date November 11, 2003

R ply to Office action of September 11, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4 to 6, 9, 13 to 14, 16, 19 to 21, 26, 27, and 29 to 31 are now pending in the application. Claims 4 to 6, 9, 13, 14, 16, 19 to 21 and 29 have been amended and claims 1 to 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 22 to 25, 28, 32 to 36 have been canceled

On page 9 of the Office action, the Examiner notes that claims 26-27 are allowed. All of the other pending claims 4 to 6, 9, 13 to 14, 16, 19 to 21, and 29 have now been amended to depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 26. Because these claims depend from claim 26 and because they contain additional limitations further distinguishing these claims from the cited prior art when considered as a whole, these claims are also believed to be patentable.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, the allowance of claims 4 to 6, 9, 13 to 14, 16, 19 to 21, and 29 to 31, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

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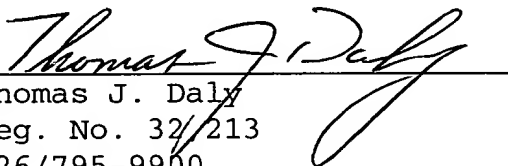
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Should any other issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number located below.

Respectfully submitted,

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TJD/agj

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